United Nations A/C.3/53/L.27

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
4 November 1998

Original: English

Fifty-third session
Third Committee
Agenda item 104
Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women

Draft resolution submitted by the Chairperson of the Third Committee on the basis of informal consultations

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 50/42 of 8 December 1995, 50/203 of 22 December 1995 and 51/69 of 12 December 1996,

Also recalling its resolutions 52/100 of 12 December 1997 and 52/231 of 4 June 1998, by which it decided to convene a high-level plenary review as a special session of the General Assembly to appraise and assess the progress achieved in the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, five years after its adoption, and to consider further actions and initiatives,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/6 of 22 July 1996 on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women, as well as Council agreed conclusions 1997/2 of 18 July 1997[1] and resolutions 1998/43 of 31 July 1998 on mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system and 1998/26 of 28 July 1998 on implementation of the Platform for Action and the role of operational activities in promoting, in particular, capacity-building and resource mobilization for enhancing the participation of women in development,

[1] A/52/3, chap. IV, para. 5.

98-33689 (E) 051198

Reaffirming that the full implementation of the Platform for Action[2] requires immediate and concerted action by all to create a peaceful, just and humane world based on all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the principle of equality for all people of all ages and from all walks of life and, to that end, recognizing that broad-based and sustained economic growth in the context of sustainable development is necessary to sustain social development and social justice,

Deeply convinced that the Beijing Declaration[3] and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women are important contributions to the advancement of women worldwide in order to achieve gender equality and must be translated into effective action by all States, the United Nations system and other organizations concerned, as well as by non-governmental organizations,

Recognizing that the implementation of the Platform for Action rests primarily at the national level, that Governments, non-governmental organizations and public and private institutions should be involved in the implementation process and that national mechanisms also have an essential role in this regard, and bearing in mind that enhanced national efforts and international cooperation are essential for the effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,

Reaffirming its decision that the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women, in accordance with their respective mandates and with Assembly resolution 48/162 of 20 December 1993 and other relevant resolutions, constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism that plays the primary role in the overall policy-making and follow-up and in coordinating the implementation and monitoring of the Platform for Action, and reaffirming the need for a coordinated follow-up to and implementation of the results of major international conferences in the economic, social and related fields,

Reaffirming that the Commission on the Status of Women has a central role as a functional commission assisting the Economic and Social Council in the monitoring, within the United Nations system, of the implementation of the Platform for Action and in advising the Council thereon, and serves as the preparatory body for the special session of the General Assembly, open to the participation of all States Members of the United Nations, members of the specialized agencies and observers, in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women;[4]

2. *Welcomes* the initiatives and actions taken by Governments, the United Nations system and other international organizations, including their secretariats, as well as by non-governmental organizations and other actors of civil society, towards the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the Conference, and calls upon them to implement effectively all critical areas of concern of the Platform for Action;

3. *Calls once again upon* States, the United Nations system and all other actors to implement the Platform for Action, in particular by promoting an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective at all levels, including in the design, monitoring and

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[2] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 96.IV.13), resolution 1, annex II.

[3] Ibid., annex I.

[4] A/53/308.

evaluation of all policies and programmes to ensure effective implementation of all critical areas of concern in the Platform for Action;

4. *Stresses* that Governments have the primary responsibility for implementing the Platform for Action, and reaffirms that Governments should continue to commit themselves at the highest political level to its implementation and should take a leading role in coordinating, monitoring and assessing progress in the advancement of women;

5. *Welcomes* the progress achieved and calls for further intensified efforts at the international level to integrate the equal status and all human rights of women into the mainstream of United Nations system-wide activity, and to address those issues regularly and systematically throughout relevant United Nations bodies and mechanisms and welcomes, in this context, Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions 1998/2 of 28 July 1998 on the follow-up to and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;[5]

6. *Welcomes* the steps already taken by the Secretary-General to draw the attention of all senior managers in the United Nations system to Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions 1997/2 and resolution 1998/43 on mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system, and urges the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts to ensure that managers are held accountable for gender mainstreaming in their areas of responsibility and that gender mainstreaming is systematically integrated into the reform process of the United Nations, including the work of the executive committees;

7. *Directs* all its committees and bodies and draws the attention of other bodies of the United Nations system to the need to mainstream a gender perspective systematically into all areas of their work, in particular in such areas as macroeconomic questions, operational activities for development, poverty eradication, human rights, humanitarian assistance, budgeting, disarmament, peace and security, and legal and political matters;

8. *Requests* all bodies that deal with programme and budgetary matters, including the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the governing bodies of the United Nations funds and programmes, to ensure that all programmes, medium-term plans and in particular programme budgets visibly mainstream a gender perspective;

9. *Reiterates* the request of the Economic and Social Council to the Secretariat to present issues and approaches in a gender-sensitive manner when preparing reports, so as to provide the intergovernmental machinery with an analytical basis for gender-responsive policy formulation;

10. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to ensure that gender mainstreaming is an integral part of all its activities concerning integrated follow-up to recent United Nations conferences, building upon its agreed conclusions 1997/2 and resolution 1998/43;

11. *Re-emphasizes* the need for the United Nations system to strengthen the role of gender units and gender focal points;

12. *Urges* Governments that have not yet done so to establish or strengthen appropriate national machineries for the advancement of women at the highest political level, including by appropriate budgetary allocations to ensure their effective operation, appropriate intra- and inter-ministerial procedures and staffing, and other institutions with

[5] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/53/3), chap. VI, para. 3.

the mandate and capacity to promote women's participation and integrate gender analysis into policies and programmes;

13. *Notes with appreciation* that many Governments have developed national strategies and action plans, some of them in consultation with non-governmental organizations, and urges all Governments that have not yet done so to complete their national action plans as soon as possible but no later than June 1999 and to submit these plans to the Secretariat;

14. *Encourages* Governments to submit responses to the questionnaire prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the regional commissions that, together with the national action plans, are an essential contribution to the special session of the General Assembly;

15. *Reiterates* its invitation to Governments to prepare national evaluations of the implementation of the Platform for Action with the involvement of civil society;

16. *Recognizes* the importance attached to the regional and subregional monitoring of the global and regional platforms for action by regional commissions and other subregional or regional structures, within their mandates, in consultation with Governments, and calls for promotion of cooperation among Governments and, where appropriate, national machineries of the same region in that respect;

17. *Calls upon* States to take action to fulfil the commitments for the advancement of women and for the strengthening of international cooperation made at the Fourth World Conference on Women, and reaffirms that adequate financial resources should be committed at the international level for the implementation of the Platform for Action in developing countries, in particular those in Africa and the least developed countries;

18. *Invites* the Secretary-General, in the implementation of the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa, to pay special attention to the needs and role of women as actors and beneficiaries in the development process;

19. *Reaffirms* that, in order to implement the Platform for Action, adequate mobilization of resources at the national and international levels, as well as new and additional resources to the developing countries, in particular those in Africa and the least developed countries, from all available funding mechanisms, including multilateral, bilateral and private sources for the advancement of women, will also be required;

20. *Recognizes* that implementation of the Platform for Action in the countries with economies in transition requires continued national efforts and international cooperation and assistance, as indicated in the Platform for Action;

21. *Reaffirms* that in order to implement the Platform for Action a reformulation of policies and reallocation of resources may be needed, but that some policy changes may not necessarily have financial implications;

22. *Calls upon* Member States to allocate sufficient resources for the provision of data disaggregated by sex and age for undertaking gender impact analyses in order to develop successful national implementation strategies for the Platform for Action;

23. *Stresses* that full and effective implementation of the Platform for Action will require a political commitment to make available human and financial resources for the empowerment of women, the integration of a gender perspective in budgetary decisions on policies and programmes and adequate financing of specific programmes for securing equality between women and men;

24. *Invites* Member States to encourage non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other institutions to mobilize additional resources to facilitate the full implementation of the Platform for Action in order to achieve gender equality;

25. *Recognizes* that the creation of an enabling environment, at the national and international levels, is necessary to ensure the full participation of women in economic activities, and calls upon States to remove obstacles for the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action;

26. *Calls again upon* Member States to commit themselves to achieving gender balance by, *inter alia*, aiming at gender balance in the composition of delegations to the United Nations and other international forums, and by presenting, promoting and appointing women candidates in all government-appointed committees, boards and other relevant official bodies, as well as in all international bodies, institutions and organizations;

27. *Reiterates* its request to the Secretary-General to ensure that the Division for the Advancement of Women can effectively carry out all the tasks foreseen for it in the Platform for Action, play a catalytic role in support of gender mainstreaming, including through policy advisory services at the request of Governments, in cooperation with other bodies of the United Nations system, and serve as the secretariat for the special session of the General Assembly by, *inter alia*, providing sufficient human and financial resources within the regular budget of the United Nations;

28. *Notes with appreciation* the work done by the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, *inter alia*, in her role as the Chairperson of the Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality, for the system-wide implementation of the Platform for Action and gender mainstreaming and towards the achievement of gender balance in the Secretariat and system-wide and, in that regard, stresses the importance of increasing human and financial resources from all available funding sources;

29. *Takes note* of the statement on gender equality and mainstreaming in the work of the United Nations system, adopted by the Administrative Committee on Coordination in March 1998, in which gender equality was established as a strategic objective of the international community and of the organizations of the United Nations system;

30. *Encourages* the Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality to continue its cooperation with the subsidiary bodies of the Administrative Committee on Coordination to develop strategies, tools and methodologies, such as gender-sensitive budgeting, to enhance implementation and monitoring of the Platform for Action and gender mainstreaming in the United Nations system;

31. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in keeping with Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/26, to ensure that a gender perspective is integral to all operational activities, is fully integrated into the triennial comprehensive policy review of those activities and that resident coordinators, in the execution of their mandates, fully incorporate a gender perspective, in particular into the coordinated follow-up to recent global United Nations conferences, fully utilizing all the expertise available in the United Nations system;

32. *Invites* States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to include information in their reports on measures taken to implement the Platform for Action;

33. *Notes* the importance of the activities undertaken by the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women in the implementation of the Platform for Action, and

encourages the strengthening of their cooperation and coordination within their respective mandates;

34. *Encourages* international financial institutions to continue to review and revise policies, procedures and staffing to ensure that investments and programmes benefit women and invites the Secretary-General to include information on any such steps in his regular report on follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session;

35. *Invites* the World Trade Organization to contribute to the implementation of the Platform for Action, including through activities in cooperation with the United Nations system;

36. *Reiterates* that the special session of the General Assembly, which will take place from 5 to 9 June 2000, should review and appraise progress in implementation, focusing on examples of good practices, positive actions, lessons learned, obstacles and key challenges remaining, and identify further actions and initiatives for achieving gender equality in the next millennium;

37. *Decides* that the special session of the General Assembly shall be entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century";

38. *Encourages* appropriate regional preparatory activities for the special session, *inter alia*, by Governments in cooperation with the regional commissions, and recommends submission of the results as an input to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-fourth session, in 2000;

39. *Invites* the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory committee for the special session to propose the agenda (structure and themes) and documentation for the special session, taking into account General Assembly resolution 52/231, and, at its forty-third session, to focus in particular on the report requested on suggestions on further actions and initiatives that might be considered during the review in order to achieve gender equality, with attention to mainstreaming a gender perspective and to common trends and themes across the twelve critical areas of concern;

40. *Reiterates* its request to the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission at its forty-third session a report on suggestions for further actions and initiatives;

41. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide by the end of 1999 a compilation of updated statistics and indicators on the situation of women and girls, including older women and those with special needs, in countries around the world, including by issuing a volume of *The World's Women*;

42. *Reiterates* that participation in the special session should be at a high political level;

43. *Emphasizes* the important role of non-governmental organizations in implementing the Platform for Action and the need for their active involvement in preparations for the special session, as well as the need to ensure appropriate arrangements for their contributions to the special session;

44. *Recalls* the interim measures put forward by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 1997/298 of 23 July 1997 for the participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of the Commission on the Status of Women with a view to their application for the forty-second session and recommends to the Council to extend their application to the forty-third session of the Commission;

45. *Invites* the Commission on the Status of Women, meeting as the preparatory committee in March 1999, to recommend to the General Assembly appropriate arrangements for the involvement and participation of non-governmental organizations in the special session;

46. *Decides* that, in the absence of a recommendation from the Commission on the Status of Women at its first meeting as the preparatory committee, in 1998, the non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, as well as the non-governmental organizations that participated in the Fourth World Conference on Women whose applications for consultative status with the Council are still under consideration, may participate in the sessions of the Commission meeting as the preparatory committee, in 1999 and 2000;

47. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report annually to the General Assembly, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Economic and Social Council, on follow-up to and progress in implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

48. *Decides* to appraise the progress on an annual basis and to retain on the agenda of its forthcoming sessions the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women".